

Justices					
	Lisa Fair McEvers	Jerod Tufte	Jon Jay Jensen	Daniel Crothers	Gerald VandeWalle
Confidence Score	Mild Republican	Strong Republican	Mild Republican	Mild Republican	Indeterminate
Opinion Partners		✓	✓		
Dissenting Minority		✓	✓		
Determining Majority	✓			✓	✓
Lone Dissenter	✓				✓

- ▶ Number of justices: **5**
- ▶ Number of cases: **269**
- ▶ Percentage of cases with a unanimous ruling: **94.4% (254)**
- ▶ Justice most often writing the majority opinion: **Justice Crothers (47)**
- ▶ Per curiam decisions: **67**
- ▶ Concurring opinions: **16**
- ▶ Justice with most concurring opinions: **Justice McEvers (8)**
- ▶ Dissenting opinions: **16**
- ▶ Justice with most dissenting opinions: **Justice McEvers (8)**

COURT CONTENTION

Opinion partners/dissenting minority

In 2020, four cases before the North Dakota Supreme Court were decided 3-2.

In two of those cases Justice Tufte and Jensen were in the minority. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justice Jensen recorded a Mild Republican Confidence Score and Justice Tufte recorded a Strong Republican Confidence Score.

Determining majority

In two of the four cases decided by split decision in 2020, Justices Crothers, McEvers, and VandeWalle were in the majority. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Crothers recorded a Mild Republican Confidence Score, McEvers recorded a Mild Republican Confidence Score, and VandeWalle recorded an Indeterminate Confidence Score.

Lone dissenter

In 2020, there was a lone dissenter in eight cases. Justices McEvers and VandeWalle each dissented alone three times in 2020.

COURT JURISDICTION

The North Dakota Supreme Court has appellate jurisdiction and administrative authority over the state's lower courts. The following text from Article VI, Sections 2 and 3 of the North Dakota Constitution covers the organization and jurisdiction of the court:

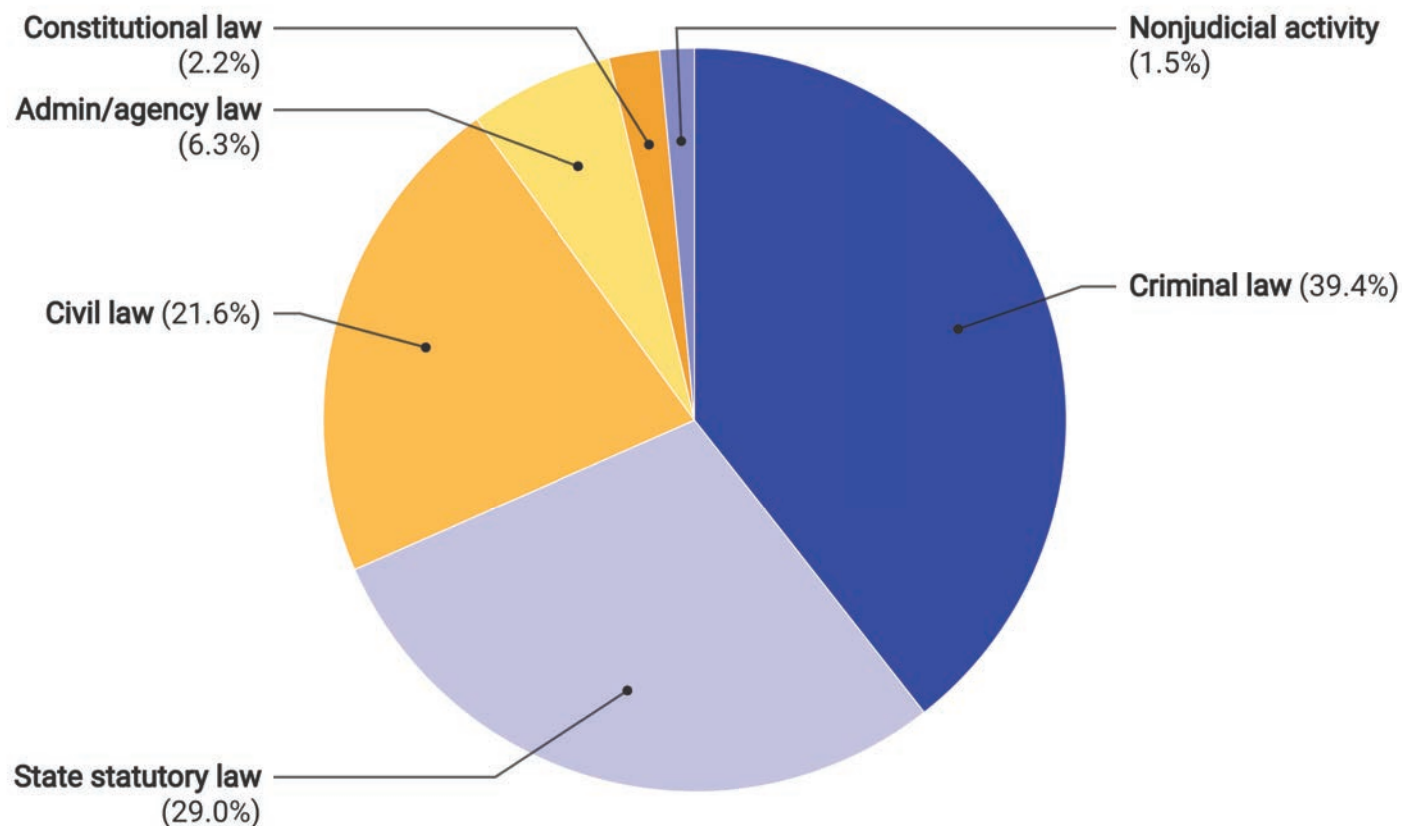
“Section 2

The supreme court shall be the highest court of the state. It shall have appellate jurisdiction, and shall also have original jurisdiction with authority to issue, hear, and determine such original and remedial writs as may be necessary to properly exercise its jurisdiction. The supreme court shall consist of five justices, one of whom shall be designated chief justice in the manner provided by law.

Section 3

The supreme court shall have authority to promulgate rules of procedure, including appellate procedure, to be followed by all the courts of this state; and, unless otherwise provided by law, to promulgate rules and regulations for the admission to practice, conduct, disciplining, and disbarment of attorneys at law. The chief justice shall be the administrative head of the unified judicial system. He may assign judges, including retired judges, for temporary duty in any court or district under such rules and regulations as may be promulgated by the supreme court. The chief justice shall appoint a court administrator for the unified judicial system. Unless otherwise provided by law, the powers, duties, qualifications, and terms of office of the court administrator, and other court officials, shall be as provided by rules of the court.”

Case types decided by North Dakota Supreme Court, 2020



BALLOTPEDIA

The most common case category heard by the North Dakota Supreme Court in 2020 was criminal law. Of the 269 cases it heard, 106 were criminal cases, or 39.4 percent of its total caseload for the year. A criminal case involves a final criminal appeal before the court of last resort.

The second most common cases that reached the court were state statutory cases. A state statutory case involves the violation or enforcement of a state statute. The North Dakota Supreme Court heard 78 state statutory law cases in 2020, or 29.0 percent of its total caseload for the year.

The third most common cases that reached the supreme court were civil cases. A civil case is one that involves a dispute between two parties, one of whom seeks reparations or damages. The North Dakota Supreme Court heard 58 civil law cases in 2020, or 21.6 percent of its total caseload for the year.